

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235529

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: EC CONSULTATIONS

REF: LONDON 5301

1. UK EMBASSY OFFICER (REEVE) CALLED ON INSTRUCTIONS TO
INFORM US THAT UK EMBASSY IN ROME HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO
APPROACH ITALIANS IN EFFORT TO TURN OFF PROPOSAL FOR HYBRID
EC-9-NATO PERM REPS MEETING ON MBFR. HE SAID THAT WHILE
UK HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANY DISCUSSION OF MBFR IN EC, UK
DID NOT SEE HOW TO DISPOSE OF IDEA ENTIRELY. THE UK WAS
THEREFORE INFORMING ROME THAT WHILE UK SYMPATHIZED WITH
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GERMAN AND ITALIAN DESIRES TO FIND WAYS OF INVOLVING FRENCH

MORE CLOSELY IN DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN ASPECT OF MBFR, THE MOST CONVENIENT WAY OF DOING THIS WOULD BE THROUGH THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN PROPOSAL, MADE IN ROME SEPTEMBER 3, TO CONVENE A MEETING SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS DUBLIN MEETING ON OPTION III ON THE MARGINS OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING IN ROME ON OCTOBER 20. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MIGHT BE SUPPORTED BY EXPERTS OF THEIR CHOICE FROM NATO OR FROM CAPITALS. FOR ITS PART, THE UK EXPERT WOULD BE COMING FROM LONDON.

2. REEVE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROPOSAL FOR MEETING WITH PERM REPS ORIGINATED NOT WITH ITALIANS BUT RATHER WITH DE STAERKE. BRITISH FELT STRONGLY THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD NOT LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS. THEY WISHED TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE OF EC-9 FORUM AS MUCH AS FEASIBLE. THE UK WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LET FRENCH SABOTAGE ONGOING OPTION III DISCUSSIONS.

3. REEVE SAID UK WAS MAKING SIMILAR APPROACH IN BONN.
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